

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 490

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Day,
May 6, 2021.

WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority Day at the Capitol will be held May 6, 2021, with all three states in the South Eastern Region, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee, combined; this year's celebration will be virtual for Connection Committees and AKA members from the South Eastern Region; and

WHEREAS, recent events such as the viral witnessing of the death of George Floyd and the January 6, 2021, U.S. Capitol Insurrection have exposed rifts in the relationships between police and the communities they protect and serve; and

WHEREAS, trust between law enforcement agencies and the people they protect and serve is essential to a democracy; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement and the communities they protect and serve are grappling with new challenges and the increased complexity as both work for safer communities, prevention of crime, and building trust across demographic lines in an era of economic disparity, social media, and identity politics; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge and respect the work and dedication of our public safety officer members who put their lives at risk every day to serve and protect the public without regard to race, color, and creed; furthermore, we recognize the complex challenges that law enforcement confronts and faces throughout our State; and

WHEREAS, police departments, elected officials, individual officers, public safety unions, John D. Cooper of the Memphis Fire Department, Frank Boyd, Sr. of Alabama Law Enforcement, and community leaders all have roles to play in putting an end to systemic racism, dysfunctional cultures, and abusive practices in law enforcement wherever they exist, and they

support programs that take a comprehensive and inclusive look at community-based initiatives addressing core issues, such as poverty, education, health, and safety; and

WHEREAS, while much work remains to be done to address many long-standing issues and challenges, not only within the field of law enforcement, but also within the broader criminal justice system, trust between law enforcement agencies and the people they protect and serve is key to the stability of our communities and to the integrity of our criminal justice system; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Day at the Capitol, May 6, 2021, a virtual celebration for the AKA members from the South Eastern Region of Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.